



FROM THE PAGES OF **52** AND **COUNTDOWN** COMES...

BLACK ADAM

1

FIRST
ISSUE
OF SIX
OCT '07

TOMASI
MAHNKE
ALAMY
RAPMUND



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SOMEWHERE NEAR
THE BORDER OF
KAHNDAG.

KRAK

UNN

I MUST ADMIT
IT TO MYSELF.



IT WAS A TIME
FOR OLD GRUDGES
TO BE BURIED...

FOR NEW
ALLIANCES
TO BE FORMED...

AND
BROKEN...

IN FAVOR
OF A BRAVE
NEW WORLD...

THAT DEMANDED
TO BE FORGED...

COME
WHAT MAY...

BE IT THROUGH
A UNION OF LOVE...

LEFT
SEARCHING...

A WORD
STOLEN FROM
MY THOUGHTS...

A WORD
STOLEN FROM
MY LIPS...

IN A
STORM
OF FIRE...

AND
BLOOD...

AND
LOSS...

BLACK RHODM

THE DARK AGE

PETER J. TOMASI: STORY AND WORDS

DOUG MAHNKE: PENCILLER

CHRISTIAN ALAMY AND NORM RAPMUND: INKERS

NATHAN DYRING: COLORIST - NICK J. NAPOLITANO: LETTERER

HARVEY RICHARDS: ASSISTANT EDITOR - MICHAEL SIGLAID: EDITOR

COVER BY DOUG MAHNKE - VARIANT COVER BY ALEX ROSS

...THE
WORD.

KRAK

UGGH.

THE WORD
THAT SHALL SET
ME FREE.

PLEASE...YOUR
MAJESTY...

...I CAN'T
GO ON ANY
LONGER...

CONTINUE.

THE DAMAGE
WE'RE CAUSING...
YOUR FACE...

...THE PAIN
THAT I'M
INFLECTING ON
MY ONCE AND
FUTURE
KING...THE
SHAME I
FEEL IS--

STOP SNIVELING,
TAMIR, AND DO AS
I COMMAND.

YOUR BRETHREN
MANAGED TO FOLLOW
MY ORDERS WITHOUT
TEARS RUNNING DOWN
THEIR CHEEKS.

DO YOU LACK
THE STRENGTH OF
CHARACTER TO DO
WHAT NEEDS TO
BE DONE?

NO, YOUR
MAJESTY...IT'S
JUST THAT--

YOUR
SOUL IS
FEEBLE.

YOUR
DEVOTION
PATHETIC.

YOUR PARENTS
SHOULD HAVE ABORTED
YOU IN THE WOMB BEFORE
YOU HAD A CHANCE TO
TAINT THIS WORLD WITH
YOUR SAD AND FRAGILE--



SOMEWHERE OVER GREECE.

...LOTS A' CITIES
GONNA NEED A HELPING
HAND---AND DON'T GET ME
WRONG---IT'S A DAMN BLASTED
MESS THANKS TO BLACK ADAM
AND ALL THEM OTHER EVIL
BASTARDS THAT SCREWED
THE POOCH AGAIN...

...BUT YER FORGETTIN' MOST
OF EUROPE AND JAPAN LOOKED
LIKE GODZILLA JUST GOT THROUGH
DANCING THE JITTERBUG ACROSS IT
AFTER WE HANDED THE KRAUTS
AND NIPS THEIR ASSES IN APRIL
AND AUGUST OF '45...

THE
GERMANS
AND THE
JAPANESE,
TED?

YEAH. SORRY, MIKEY. YA
CAN TAKE THE CAT OUTTA
THE PAST, BUT SOMETIMES
YA CAN'T TAKE THE PAST
OUTTA THE CAT.

A GREAT DEAL OF
SUFFERING GOING ON
RIGHT NOW. WE NEED
TO GET DOWN THERE
AND GET BUSY.

I SAW THE MARSHALL PLAN IN
ACTION FIRSTHAND, KIDDIES, SO IF THIS
NEW THINGY THE UNITED NATIONS JUST PASSED
IS HALF AS GOOD, THE WORLD AND THE
GOOD OL' J-S-OF-A WILL HELP GET EVERYONE
BACK ON THEIR FEET LICKETY-SPLIT.

YEAH. SO IT CAN
ALL GO TO HELL
AGAIN.

WILDCAT,
THIS IS GREEN
LANTERN.
OVER.

HOLD THAT GOOD
THOUGHT THERE, WALT
DISNEY. WE READ YA
LOUD AND CLEAR, GL.

WE'VE
INTERCEPTED
A TRANSMISSION THAT
TETH-ADAM'S BEEN
FOUND IN THE BIALYAN
VILLAGE OF
HANJAR. OVER.

WE'RE
ON IT.
OVER.

TIGHTEN
THOSE BELTS YA
CHUCKLEHEADS...

...THE
CHATTANOOGA
CHOO-CHOO'S NEXT
STOP IS...

Whoosh



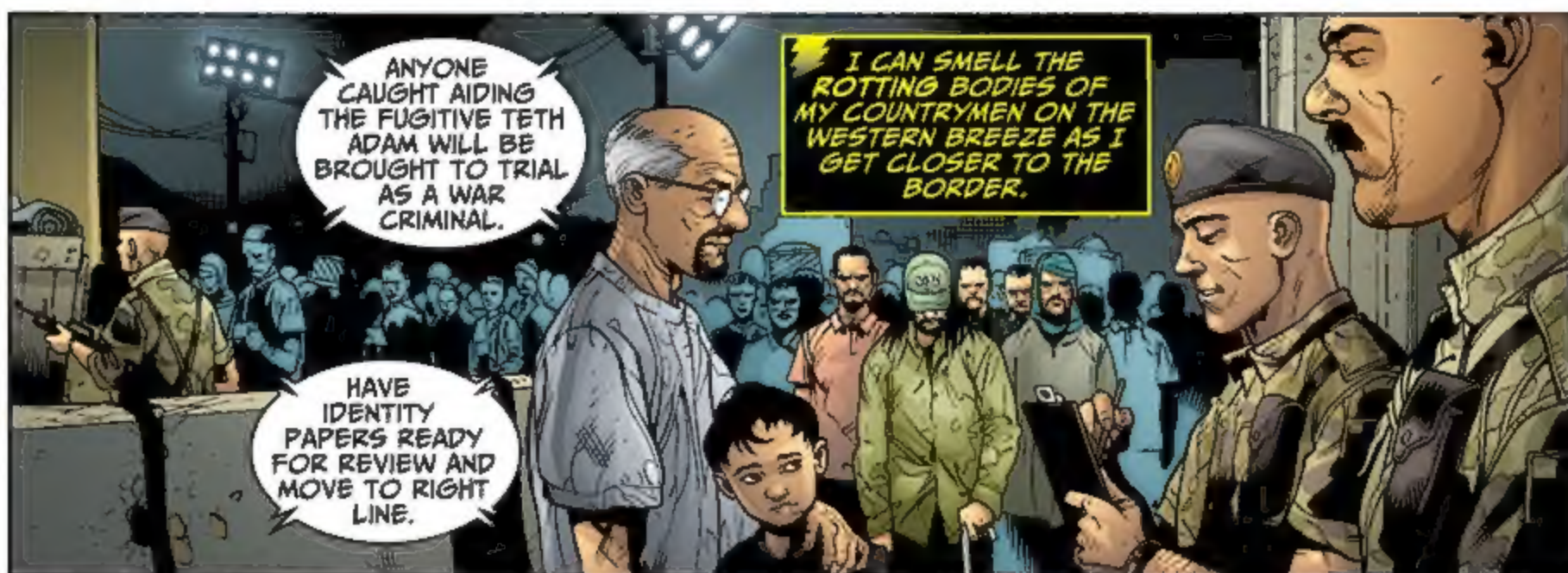


KAHNDAG BORDER CHECKPOINT.

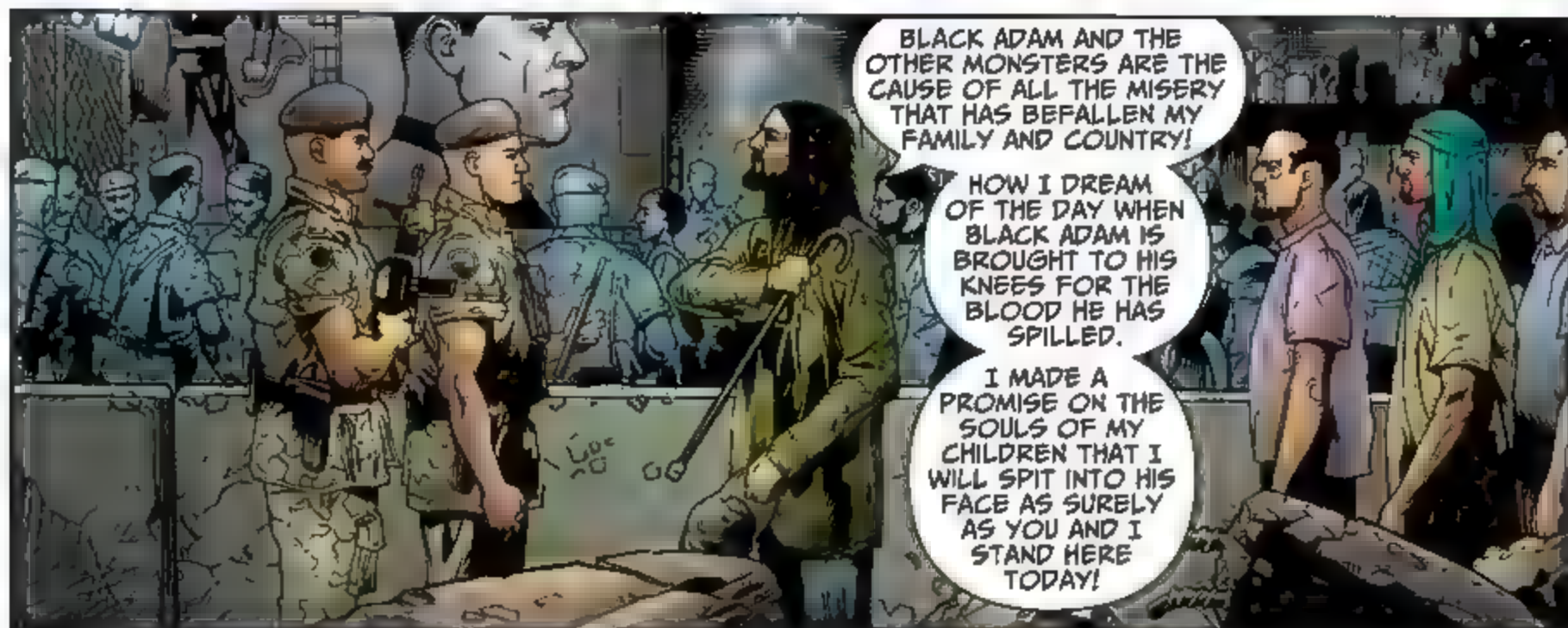
PEOPLE WITH
MINISTRY-STAMPED
IDENTITY DOCUMENTS
PROCEED TO YOUR RIGHT.
PEOPLE WITHOUT IDENTITY
DOCUMENTS PROCEED
TO YOUR LEFT.

ANYONE WITH
INFORMATION ON
THE FUGITIVE KNOWN
AS TETH-ADAM WILL
BE REWARDED AND
KEPT IN STRICT
CONFIDENCE.

HARBORING
THE FUGITIVE KNOWN
AS TETH-ADAM WILL
RESULT IN A DEATH
SENTENCE.

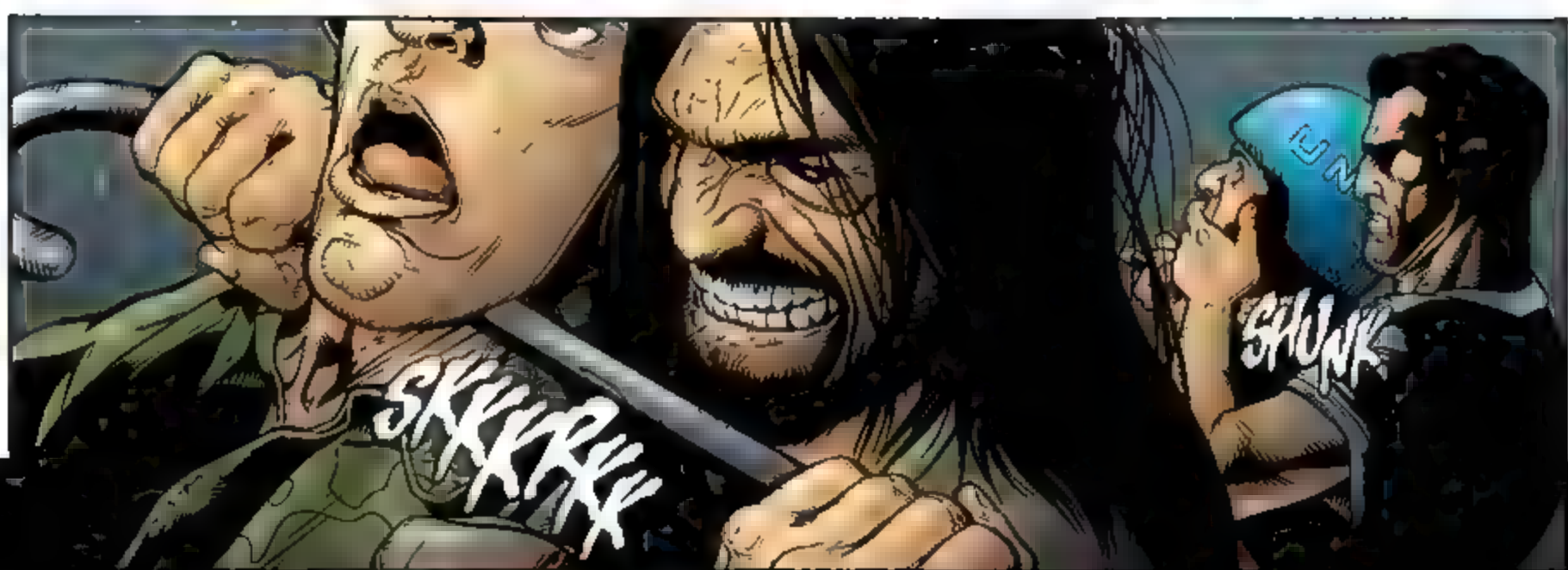






THE TOMB OF
ISIS AND OSIRIS.

DAYS LATER.





THEY
TRIED TO KEEP
ME FROM YOU,
MY LOVE.

BUT
THEY HAVE
FAILED.



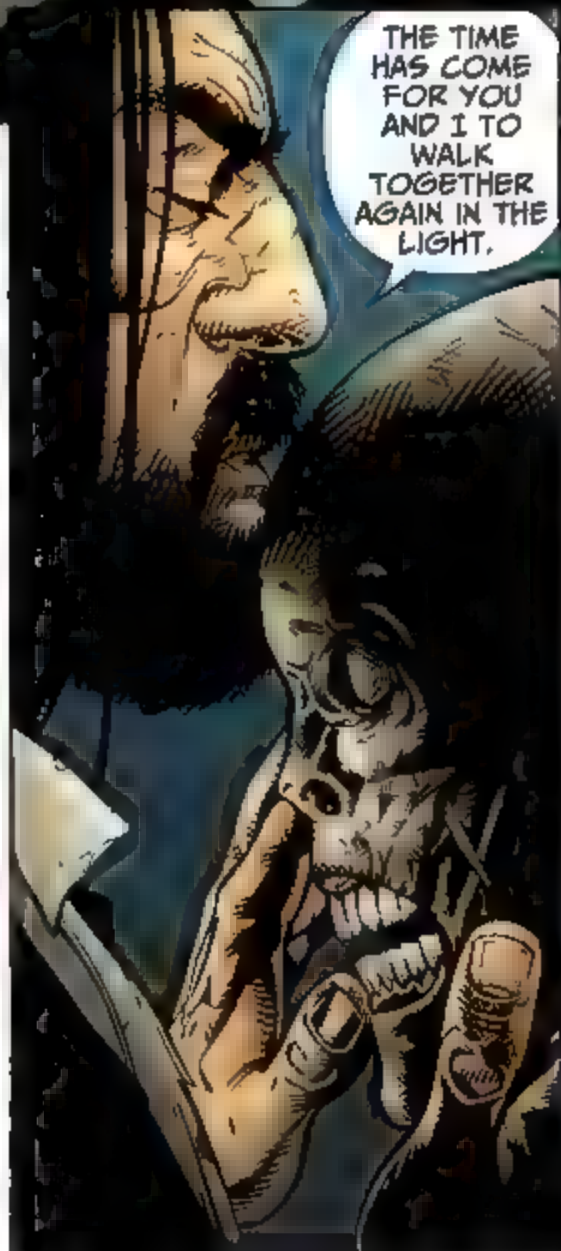
I AM
HERE.

UNN!

IT FEELS LIKE AN
ETERNITY SINCE THAT
DAY I LAID YOU HERE
TO REST BESIDE YOUR
BROTHER.



THE TIME FOR
YOU TO REMAIN IN
DARKNESS IS
OVER.



THE TIME
HAS COME
FOR YOU
AND I TO
WALK
TOGETHER
AGAIN IN THE
LIGHT.

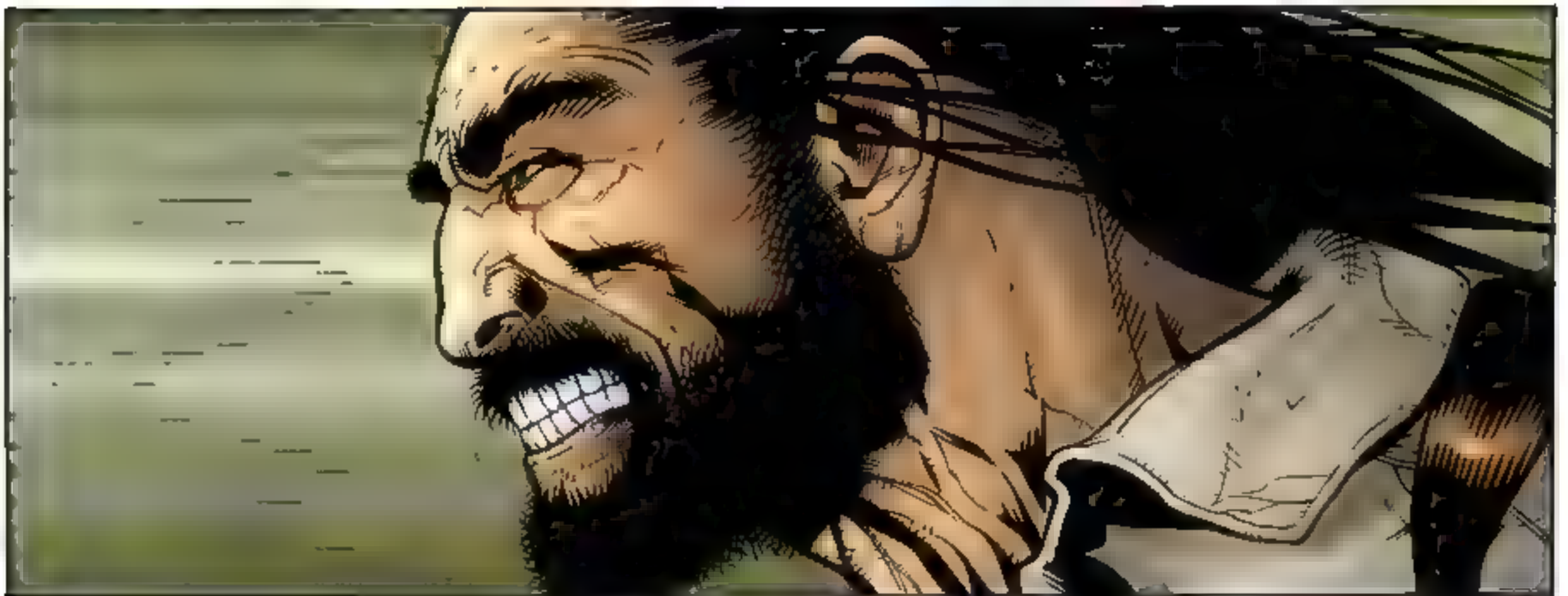
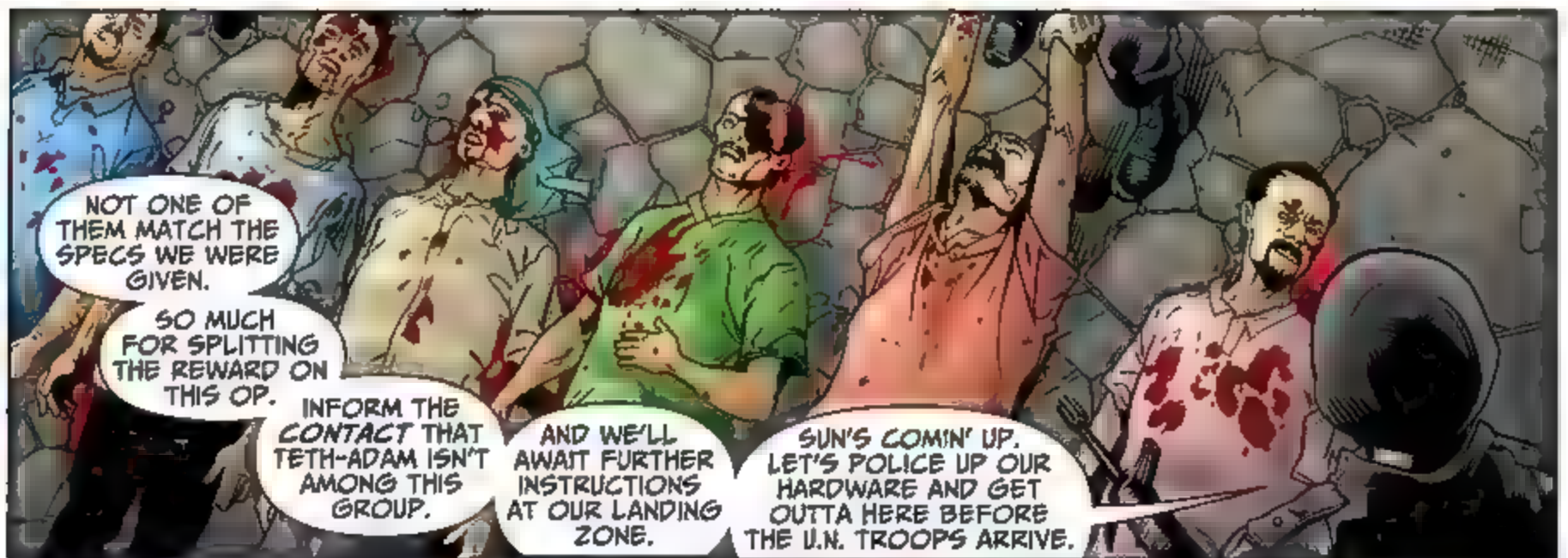
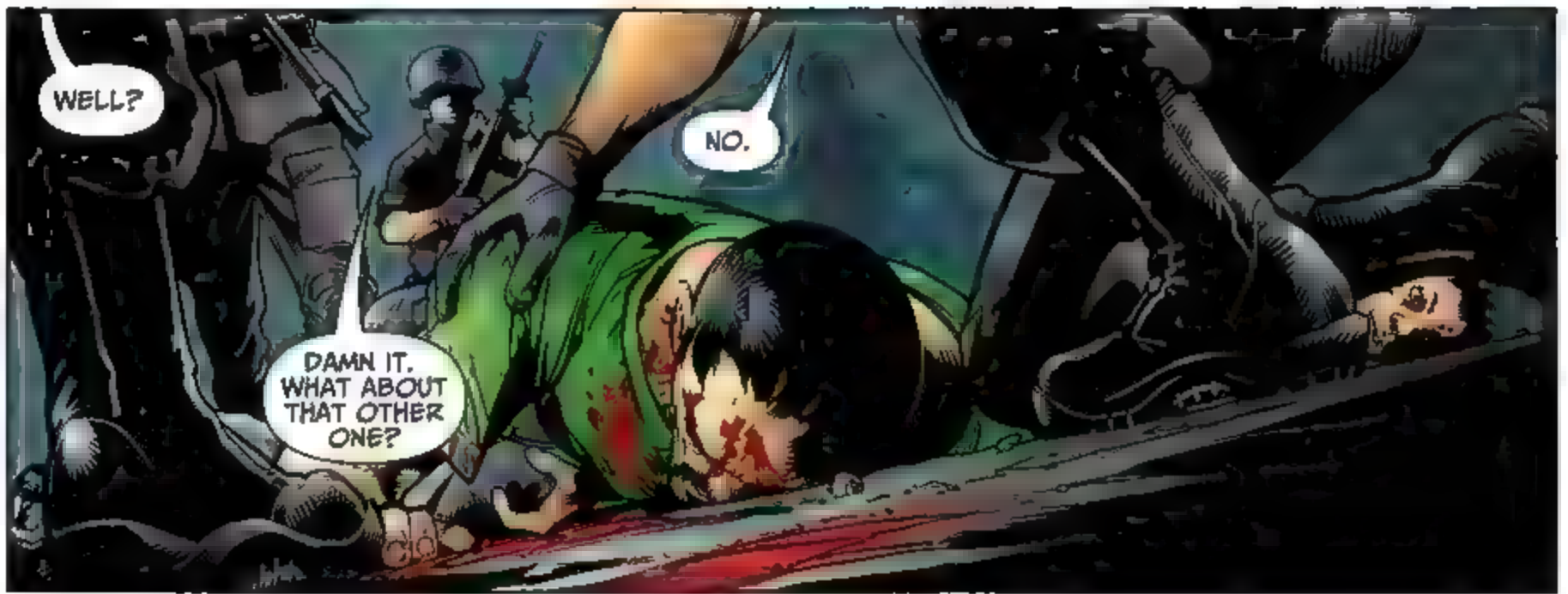


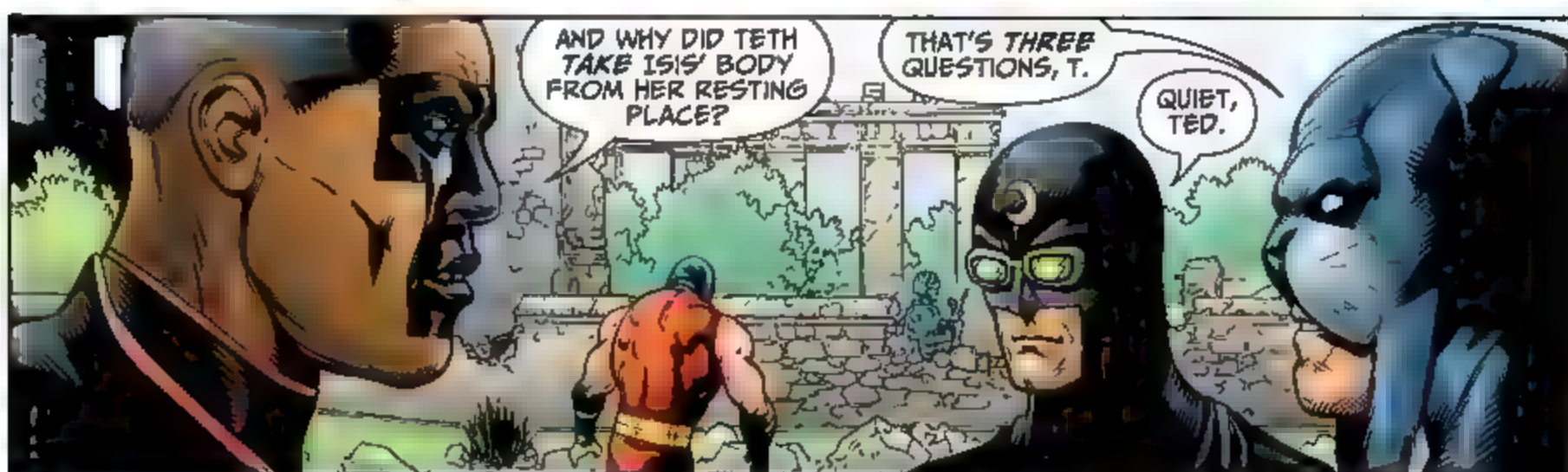
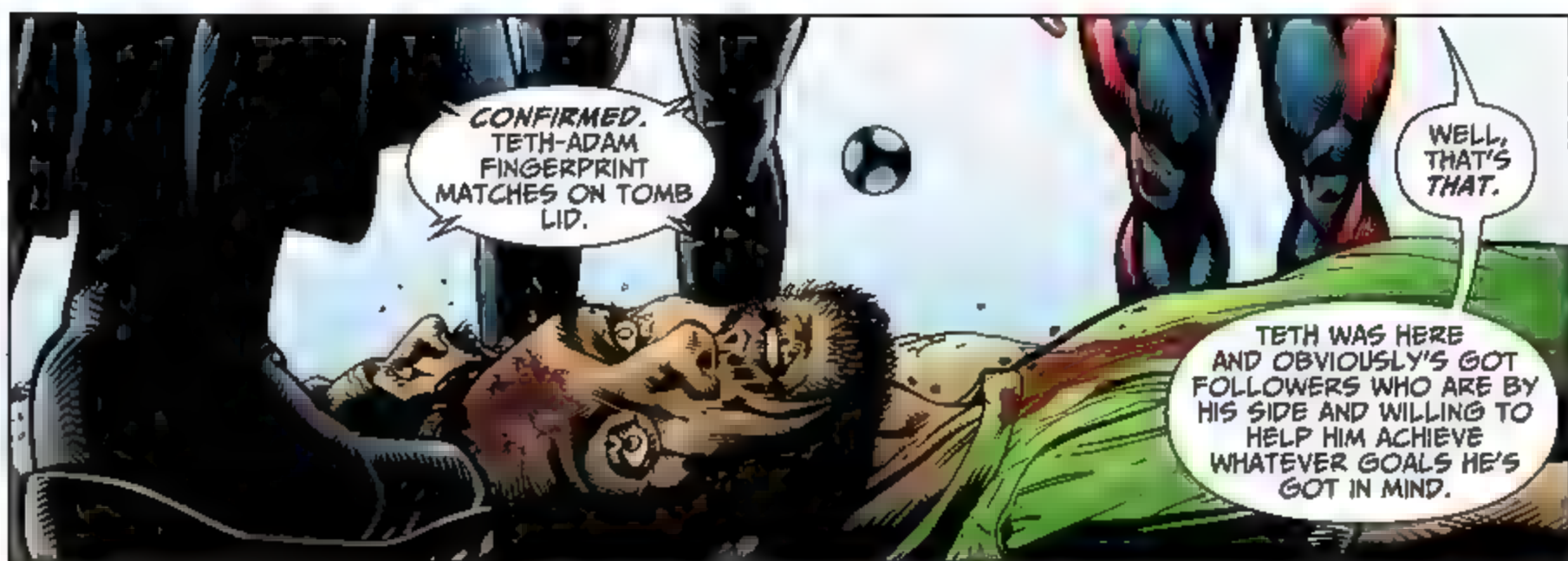
DO NOT
TOUCH
HER!

ONLY MY FINGERS
WILL HANDLE HER
REMAINS!

NOW
STAND
BACK!







THE HIMALAYAS.
WEEKS LATER.

I HAVE SET MY
SIGHTS FOR THE HEART
OF THE SUN.

IT WARMS
MY SOUL WITH
EACH STEP I
NOW TAKE.

AS DOES THIS
MEAT AND BLOOD
THAT COURSES
THROUGH ME--
KEEPING ME STRONG
AND VITAL.

WERE IT NOT FOR
TAMIR'S DEMAND AND
SELFLESS SACRIFICE
I WOULD BE DEAD
WITHIN DAYS...

...AND THE
DREAM
FOREVER
UNREALIZED.

I MUST
REMEMBER
TO PRAY FOR
HIS NOBLE SOUL
EACH AND
EVERY DAY.

**DAYS BLUR
INTO WEEKS.**

**THE WORLD
TRIES TO SHRUG
ME OFF AS IF I AM
BUT AN INSIGNIFICANT
FLEA ON ITS
COLOSSAL BACK.**

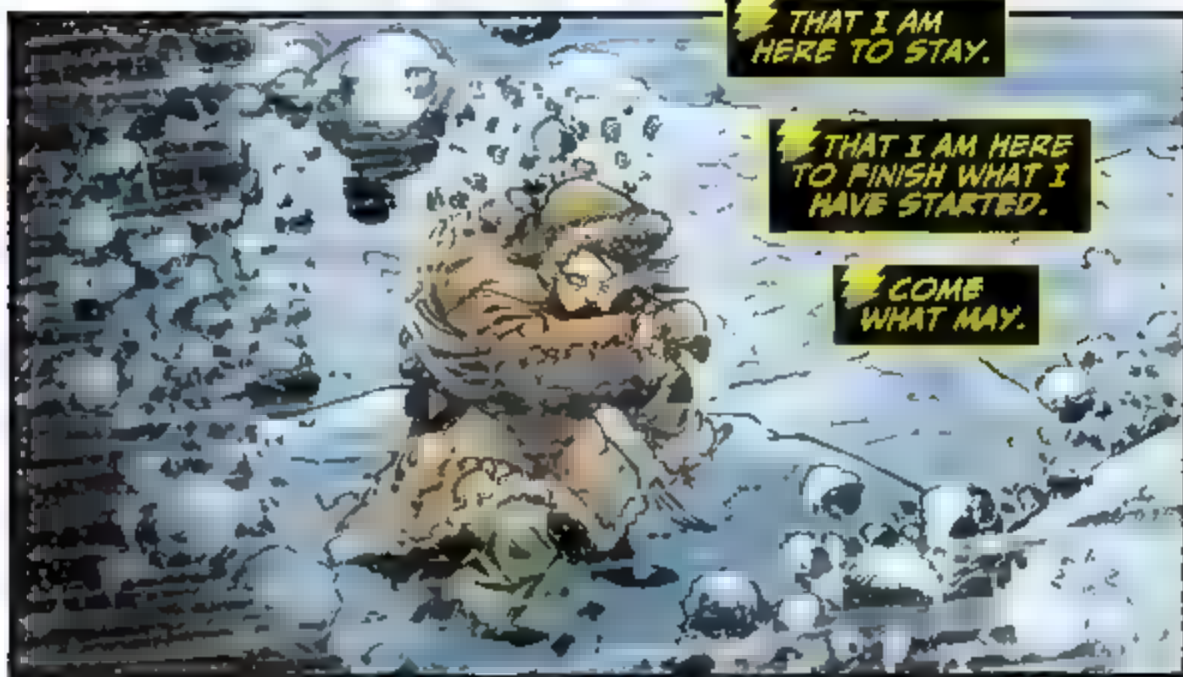


**I TIGHTEN MY GRIP
AND SWEAR TO THE SKY
ABOVE THAT I WILL NOT
GO INTO THE NIGHT
SO GENTLY.**

**THAT I AM
HERE TO STAY.**

**THAT I AM HERE
TO FINISH WHAT I
HAVE STARTED.**

**COME
WHAT MAY.**



**WHATEVER THE
CONSEQUENCES.**

**AND JUST
WHEN I FEEL THE
WORLD HAS
GROWN WEARY OF
MY WORDS...**



**...IT TELLS
ME TO SHUT UP
AND PAY
ATTENTION.**



